



## COMMISSION ON AGING

---

### COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

Minutes  
May 18, 2015

**PRESIDING:** Peter Brunner, Chair

**Members Attending**

Angela Boyter  
Susan Hailman  
Jan Horan  
Julia Mattis  
Bob McLaughlin  
Andrew Monjan  
Sharonlee Vogel  
Laureen Wylie

**Not Present**

Barbara Catlin  
Roxanne Farrar  
Debbie Fleischmann  
Eletta Morse

**Office on Aging**

Starr Sowers

**Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

**Approve Agenda**

Pete Brunner requested that the update from the Legislative Affairs Committee be renamed the Governmental Affairs Committee. Pete also requested that the Senior Housing Options update be struck from the agenda as Eletta Morse was not in attendance. Sharonlee Vogel moved to accept the amended agenda and Laureen Wylie seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Agenda accepted.*

**Approve Minutes**

Sharonlee Vogel moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting and Laureen Wylie seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Minutes accepted.*

**Office on Aging Report**

Starr Sowers, Administrator of the Office on Aging, provided a brief discussion of her priorities for the office, which include: continuation of the master planning process, working with county administration to determine the appropriate structure of the office, expansion of resources for caregivers and vulnerable adults, and the creation of a marketing plan for the office.

Additionally, Starr shared that a decision had been made to rebrand all the senior centers as 50+ centers. Effective immediately, those centers with "senior" in their name are changing to "50+." Additionally a name for the Ellicott City Annex space has been determined. The space will be called the Ellicott City 50+ Fitness Center.

The Commission discussed ways they could learn more about the office; Starr proposed that division managers attend COA meetings on a rotating basis to discuss what was new in their division. The Commission was in favor of this idea.

The Commission also discussed the new 50+ Fitness Center with Starr. The space will be limited to those age 50 or older or those who are Howard County government employees. The center is still working to determine pricing, but memberships will be available in a few weeks.

### **Howard County Police Senior Liaison**

Angie Boyter shared her experience attending a Police Department sponsored event, Coffee with a Cop, where she met the Police's Senior Liaison, Pfc. Andre Lingham. Officer Lingham offers a range of programs to local groups including topics like scam protection and identity theft. The Commission was interested in hearing more about the programs offered and in ways they could partner with Officer Lingham. The Office on Aging will reach out to Officer Lingham and invite him to attend the July COA meeting.

### **Governmental Affairs Committee Report**

Bob McLaughlin provided a summary of the committee's meeting with the county executive. The group discussed the transition team report and the alternative plan for an expanded Health & Human Services Agency similar to the structure followed in Montgomery County. The committee will learn more about the Montgomery County structure through a conference call with their Commission on Aging and area agency on aging.

The group also discussed the discrepancy in school board projections for new students vs the county/state projections and the budget implications this may have. The committee also presented the white paper and in a discussion on its main points, Mr. Kittleman expressed interest in improving transportation options for seniors.

Additionally, Mr. Kittleman expressed interest in attending a COA meeting, although those details still need to be worked out.

Bob has prepared some possible discussion questions for the conference call with Montgomery County and will email them following the meeting. When suggesting questions, keep in mind that the goal of the call is to create a report back to the county executive on the structure of the Health & Human Services agency in Montgomery County.

### **CA SAC Report**

Sharonlee Vogel shared that Milton Matthews, president of the Columbia Association, had attended a meeting to introduce himself to the Council. The CA SAC is receiving updates on the implementation of CA's Older Adult Plan; at their next meeting the Office of Transportation will present to the group.

### **MDCOA Report**

Sharonlee reported that a final date for the training summit has not yet been determined as there are challenges in scheduling around holidays.

Secretary Kramer is reported to be examining the process of assigning hold harmless funds to local jurisdictions as some counties have been receiving funds for decades.

Sharonlee also shared some additional information on CCRCs and the bed tax. She will email additional information to commission members this week.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

None

**Adjournment**

Sharonlee Vogel motioned to adjourn. Andrew Monjan seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Recording Secretary: Jennifer Rittenhouse

Next Meeting: June 15, 2015, Ellicott City Senior Center Annex, 7pm